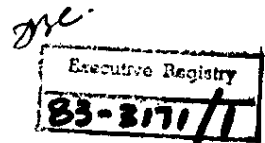


The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505



June 22, 1983

The Honorable Don Albosta
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Albosta:

Thank you for your letter of June 20, 1983.

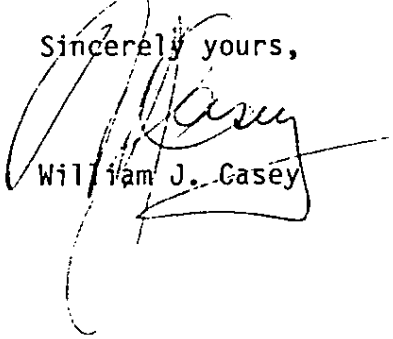
I have no recollection that I ever received, heard of or learned in any other way of a set of papers which laid out the Carter debate plan or the points which President Carter had planned to make as described in Mr. Barrett's account. I can assure you that the campaign management never contemplated, directed or authorized any effort to obtain information of this kind nor, to my knowledge, did the campaign ever use or have the kind of information described in Mr. Barrett's book.

Upon receiving your letter I checked with my secretary during the campaign, two of my special assistants and five of the deputy campaign directors and none of them have any knowledge of any paper or information, resembling that described by Mr. Barrett, being reviewed by the campaign.

Of course, the campaign prepared its own papers on the issues and Mr. Carter's positions were well known. It is not easy to believe that papers ever existed which, to use Mr. Barrett's words, "included every important item Carter used on the air" in response to questions which President Carter did not know would be asked.

If I can be of any further assistance, let me know.

Sincerely yours,


William J. Casey

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News Bulletin: WASHINGTON POST, P-A1

ITEM No. 1
24 JUNE 1983

JL

Casey Is Cited as Source of Carter Briefing Book

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Staff Writer

White House chief of staff James A. Baker III said yesterday "it is my best recollection" that William J. Casey was the senior official in Ronald Reagan's 1980 campaign who produced a briefing book from President Carter's reelection team before the nationally televised debate between the two candidates.

Casey, who was campaign manager for Reagan and is now CIA director, said he had "no recollection" of the document.

Their comments are in letters to Rep. Donald J. Albosta (D-Mich.), a House subcommittee chairman who is looking into the briefing book episode. Two other Reagan administration officials, Office of Management and Budget Director David A. Stockman and White House communications director David R. Gergen, also said in response to questions from Albosta that they knew of the Carter briefing material.

Stockman said it was "useful" in preparing Reagan for the debate. Gergen said that he never saw it but that others told him it was not "important or dramatic."

Meanwhile, Myles Martel, a Villanova, Pa., consultant who worked for the Reagan campaign, said in a telephone interview yesterday that he urged another campaign aide, Frank Hodsoll, to return the Carter briefing materials at the time. "My impression was we had something that we shouldn't have had," Martel said. "It should have been returned."

Martel said Hodsoll "didn't debate me" and responded "with something to the effect that I had a very interesting position on the subject."

Hodsoll, who is now chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, said yesterday he does not recall any discussion with Martel on the ethics of having the material but said he might have talked about it "in passing."

Hodsoll has said previously that he had been given several hundred pages of question-and-answer briefing ma-

paigned but never knew the origin of it. Martel said he was hired by the Reagan campaign to prepare Reagan for the Oct. 28 debate with Carter and an earlier debate with John B. Anderson.

He said he never saw the Carter briefing material, but urged that it be sent back when Hodsoll told him about it Oct. 26 at a dinner at Hodsoll's home. Martel said the material was "inconsequential" and he did not mention the episode in a book he subsequently wrote about presidential debates.

In their letters yesterday, the Reagan administration officials said they had not made an effort to determine the source of the Carter briefing materials. Those who remember the documents said they were position papers and not strategy memos.

Baker said he has "no recollection that I ever received or saw any debate strategy or sensitive debating points prepared by the Carter campaign or Carter White House." But Baker said, "I do remember briefly seeing a large loose-leaf bound book [I believe in a black binder] that was thought to have been given to the Reagan camp by someone with the Carter campaign."

Baker recalled that Casey gave it to him "with the suggestion that it might be of use to the [Reagan] Debate Briefing Team" headed by Gergen and Hodsoll. After thumbing through it, Baker said, he "passed it on" to the team.

The chief of staff said he "never, member 'ever receiving or seeing' directly or indirectly" asked anyone the debate briefing book, although which he described as a "compendium" of Carter administration policy positions. Baker said he never tried to determine the source.

"There was nothing on its face that suggested it may have been an official document or a document sufficiently sensitive to have been controlled or closely held," Baker said. "In any case, I would submit that, unfortunately, it is not uncommon in campaigns—just as it is not uncommon

press and the Congress—for such material to be given or sent . . ."

Baker said "there is obviously high political content" in efforts to make an issue of the briefing book episode.

Baker and Gergen said they are not aware of any evidence that the briefing book was illegally obtained. That charge was raised recently in a new book, "Gambling with History" by Laurence I. Barrett, who said the material was "apparently . . . filched" from the Carter camp. He did not identify the source of the material.

In the letters sent to Albosta, there appeared to be a contradiction between Baker and Casey. Baker recalled that Casey gave him the book. Casey wrote that he had "no recollection" of any papers setting out Carter's debate strategy or debating points. And Casey said that his secretary, two special assistants and five deputy campaign directors had told him they have no knowledge of briefing material "resembling that" described by Barrett.

But in his letter Casey did not address the "black book" described by Baker. In a statement subsequently issued yesterday, Casey said he did not remember "any black book," but added that he sent Baker all papers that crossed his desk concerning the debate. Casey did not specifically rule out the possibility that the Carter briefing material was sent to Baker.

Gergen said that he does not remember "ever receiving or seeing" the debate briefing book, although he may have seen "some pages." He said his judgment that it was not important was based on what others told him about the document and the low-key way it was used.

While Gergen and other White House officials have claimed the material was of little help in readying Reagan for the debate, Stockman said it was "useful" in "a very particular and unique sense." He said the documents helped him prepare for his stand-in role in the practice

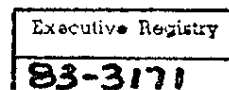
debate with Reagan, but that the material would not have helped others in the campaign.

Stockman said the material—"a thick, unbound set of pages"—was delivered to his congressional office Oct. 23, 1980, the day before debate preparation began with Reagan at his campaign estate, Wexford, in Virginia's hunt country. Stockman said the documents "dealt entirely with policy issues . . ."

A White House spokesman said Reagan had read the letters and told his aides to cooperate with Albosta. The congressman said he would review the letters "thoroughly."

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U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES
511 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING ANNEX 1
Washington, D.C. 20515



TELEPHONE (202) 225-2821

June 20, 1983

The Honorable William Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

The Human Resources Subcommittee, in carrying out its responsibilities to act on the reauthorization of the Office of Government Ethics, has undertaken extensive oversight into the implementation of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978. As a result of that oversight, we have identified problems that have arisen since passage of the original Act. This Subcommittee has attempted to address many of those problems through statutory changes currently awaiting final House action in H.R. 2717, the OGE reauthorization bill.

Recently, printed reports stemming from the release of Laurence Barrett's new book, Gambling With History: Reagan in the White House, have come to the attention of the Subcommittee. They refer to the purported use of "filched" documents that had been prepared by President Carter's White House staff by the Reagan Presidential campaign staff in preparation for the 1980 general debates. Specifically, Mr. Barrett's book and the attached news reports suggest that Mr. Baker, Mr. Stockman, and Mr. Gergen received and acknowledged these to be White House documents and proceeded to use them to prepare for the presidential debate. It is in the Subcommittee's continuing effort to review agency ethics programs and the implementation of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 that I have written to the above gentlemen to request their responses to those allegations.

As you were campaign manager of the Reagan Presidential campaign with chief administrative responsibilities, I would like your response to the allegations made. I want to assure you that it is not my intention to accept these allegations at face value. However, if Mr. Barrett's accounts, and the attached news items, are accurate, there may be possible violations of criminal law because of any theft that may have occurred, or for the failure to report such a theft. There are also additional potential violations, such as theft and receipt of U.S. Government property. Every employee and official of the Federal Government is obliged to report possible violations as well. There are institutional concerns, such as the concern that all executive branch employees, including White House staff, appreciate and understand the prohibitions in the ethics and conflicts laws,

L272



The Honorable William Casey
June 20, 1983
Page two

regulations, and standards of conduct, and the responsibility of the Office of Government Ethics to promote such understanding, as provided in 5 U.S.C. App. § 402(b)(14). Also, Title VI of the Ethics in Government Act dealing with special prosecutor investigations may come into play.

I have expressed the concern in the past that every employee and official be made aware of the ethics requirements of service in the Federal Government. The Subcommittee also has a general responsibility to see that all sections of the Ethics in Government Act are operating in a reliable and well-coordinated manner, so that matters which should be addressed within agencies or offices are properly handled and that matters which rise to a level requiring attention of the Attorney General receive both the requisite attention of the Attorney General and the appropriate consideration by the officials in the agency or executive office involved.

I would therefore appreciate having your response to these charges and an explanation of your knowledge of and participation, if any, in the reported transactions, as described in Mr. Barrett's book and the news articles. I would also request on behalf of the Subcommittee that, for the protection of all parties involved, you preserve all documents, records, and logs of meetings and conversations which have a direct bearing on, or relation to, the events described above, and the preparation for the Presidential debates of 1980.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Sincerely,


Don Albosta
CHAIRMAN

DA/TALmg
Enclosures
cc: The Attorney General

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Wash Post

9 Jun 83

P A-15

Reagan Staff Had Carter Data Before '80 Debate, Book Says

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Staff Writer

In preparing for the 1980 debate between Ronald Reagan and President Carter, the Reagan campaign staff secretly obtained a copy of the Carter briefing material, according to a book to be published this month on Reagan and his first two years in the White House.

Author Laurence I. Barrett writes in "Gambling with History, Reagan in the White House" that "a member of the [Reagan] campaign staff somehow acquired an unusual prize: briefing material that the other side was using" before the debate in Cleveland in the final days of the campaign.

Barrett, White House correspondent for Time magazine, says that "apparently a Reagan mole in the Carter camp had filched papers containing the main points" Carter

planned to make, except for his reference to his daughter, Amy, and nuclear arms control.

According to Barrett's account, then-Rep. David A. Stockman (R-Mich.), who impersonated Carter for a mock debate with Reagan, "was delighted to find most of his homework done for him as he outlined his own script for the dry run."

The book says James A. Baker III, then a campaign official and now White House chief of staff, "took charge" of preparing Reagan for the debate. But Baker "was grateful not to know the mechanics" of how the Carter briefing material had been obtained, Barrett writes. He does not provide details on how Reagan got the material.

Baker pointed out yesterday through an aide that he did not know how the material had been obtained.



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By DAVID SHRIBMAN
Special to The New York Times

A Dirty Trick Reported

A report that the 1980 campaign staff of Ronald Reagan played a dirty trick on President Carter is stirring righteous indignation among Carter loyalists.

The report is in a new book, "Gambling With History," by Laurence I. Barrett, a White House reporter for Time magazine. In the book, Mr. Barrett writes that the trick was undertaken as Mr. Carter and Mr. Reagan were preparing for their only debate of the campaign.

"Apparently a Reagan mole in the Carter camp had filched papers containing the main points the President planned to make when he met Reagan for the debate," the book says, without elaborating. Mr. Barrett writes that James A. Baker 3d, now White House chief of staff, then a campaign adviser, had "looked the other way" and "was grateful not to know the mechanics" of the incident.

Mr. Baker has declined to comment on the report. But Patrick Caddell, who was Mr. Carter's pollster and one of his strategists, waxed wrathful, suggesting that the Reagan campaign staff was "bribing people, or spying, pursuing this kind of frankly Watergate tactics." Jody Powell, who was Mr. Carter's press secretary, alluded to Watergate too, saying, "It's amazing. I kind of figured those days were over."

Swinging and Swaying

If you answer yes to the questions "Do you secretly long to be Nick or Nora Charles?" and "Do you believe that the shape of a martini glass is more important than the gin or vermouth therein," the Art Deco Society of Washington says it wants you as a member.

The society, founded last summer, is dedicated to preserving buildings such as the Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department, hitherto not known to be threatened by the developer's itch or the wrecker's ball. The society's imminent attention concerns its First Annual Art Deco Ball, to be held at the Shoreham Hotel next Saturday for "everyone in town who shares our divine madness." Such sharers will be expected to "swing and sway, imbibe and jive," the society says.

A 175th Anniversary

He became a President on Feb. 18, 1861, and his term ended on May 10, 1865, when he was arrested by the Grand Army of the Re-

public at Irwinville, Ga., and accused of treason and complicity in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. He was indicted twice, imprisoned and shackled at Fortress Monroe, Va., but was never tried, and he died a free man on Dec. 6, 1889 in New Orleans. Eventually, a statue of Jefferson Davis was placed in Statuary Hall on the second floor of the Capitol. This week, many people passing by the statue wondered why more than a dozen wreaths had appeared around it, without ceremony or announcement. The reason was that June 3 was the 175th anniversary of the birth of the first, and only, President of the Confederate States of America. The wreaths were from Southern civic groups and a few Southern Congressmen.

Billing Note in Vietnamese

The Washington area has one of the nation's largest communities of Vietnamese immigrants, and now they are getting a new kind of recognition. For the first time, Washington Gas, one of the area's major utilities, has included a paragraph in Vietnamese in the inserts it sends out with bills. The paragraph urges consideration of the company's budget payment plan. The future of the Vietnamese language in the gas literature depends on the amount of response to the test paragraph, the company office said. In the month the paragraph has been circulating, there have been 14 answers in Vietnamese from the several thousand Vietnamese who get gas bills.

There Is a Whisky Trove

Stately plump Washingtonians and some of other shapes are said to be preparing for the celebration of Bloomsday, June 16, lured by the bottled bait hidden by the Capital's James Joyce Society.

The society celebrates the day of Leopold Bloom's life created in "Ulysses" in several ways. One of them is hiding a case of Irish whisky somewhere in Washington and eking out recondite clues from the text of "Ulysses" to help and bemuse the thirsty and the curious. Early hints given in February led no one to the booze. The newest tip is: The name; doubly-derived from the common gillyflower.

Is there really a whisky trove? The Joyce Society says, Yes. Yes. Yes.

James F. Clarity
Warren Weaver Jr.

WASHINGTON, June 7 — Russell B. Long, the Louisiana Democrat who is former chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, is not up for reelection next year. Even so, Mr. Long has a lot riding on the 1984 voting.

Ever since the Republicans took over the Senate in 1981, Senator Long, known as one of the most cunning members of Congress, hasn't quite been himself. Once one of the lairds of Capitol Hill, he has chafed in his position as the ranking minority member on the finance panel. "I'd like to be chairman again," he says.

Mr. Long is not alone. The Democrats, outnumbered 54 to 46 in the Senate, have already begun mobilizing for the major subplot in the 1984 election: the battle for the Senate.

"We're bolstering our organization and plan to put on a full-court press," said Senator Lloyd Bentsen of Texas, chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. "We need five seats, and I think we'll get them."

'We Have to Raise More Money'

When the voters elect a President next year they will also decide the fate of a third of the Senate and perhaps shift the balance of power in that chambers. The Republicans have more to lose in this contest than do the Democrats: of the 33 seats available in 1984, 19 are now held by Republicans, 14 by Democrats.

In the past few weeks, in fact,



Associated Press

Senator Jesse Helms

Democratic strategists have stepped up their efforts to recruit candidates to run against Republican Senators. Flying to such states as New Mexico, Mississippi, Maine, Colorado and Kansas, they have been conferring with Democratic governors and other party leaders and setting the groundwork for what they hope will be strong

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THE WASHINGTON POST, SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 1983

pg. B-7

Jody Powell

Just a Third-Rate Theft

A dirty trick against Carter elicits only yawns.

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You'd think people would learn, but the evidence is to the contrary. "Gambling With History," a soon-to-be-published book by Time magazine's White House correspondent, Laurence Barrett, contains a rather startling revelation: the Reagan campaign had "a mole in the Carter camp" who stole a copy of the president's briefing notebook for his crucial debate with Reagan.

The notebook was given to Jim Baker, now White House chief of staff, and David Gergen, now director of communications. They presented it to David Stockman, now budget director, who had been called in at the last minute to play the role of Carter in Reagan's debate rehearsals. Stockman, who knew the notebook was stolen property, was delighted, and found it to be a great help in preparing for his performance.

When the debate was over, again according to Barrett, the Reaganauts were pleased to note that the notebook had included every important item Carter had used on the air except one: his reference to his daughter, Amy, in connection with nuclear arms control. (An awkward aside that hardly required a response.)

What effect this had on the election is debatable. Some

pened under similar circumstances in days gone by. Suppose Hamilton Jordan and two senior colleagues had admitted using material stolen from the Ford White House to prepare Jimmy Carter for the '76 debates. The whole smell-mess would have been on page one from day one. Investigative teams would have been dispatched to ask pointed, unpleasant questions. Evasive, illogical, and inconsistent answers would have been treated with appropriate contempt. For those who have forgotten how this process works, perhaps a checklist and a few helpful hints are appropriate.

Question: What other dirty tricks did the Reagan campaign perpetrate?

Hint: The notebook was stolen, not from the campaign headquarters, but from the White House. Fewer than a dozen persons ever saw it. The person who took it almost certainly had access to other information even more valuable to the Reagan campaign. Is it logical that he (she?) would risk copying and sneaking out a three-inch-thick notebook but ignore more important information that could be passed over the telephone?

Question: Who else in the Reagan campaign was involved? Was the mole paid in cash? With a job? A pat on the head?

Hint: Baker and Gergen have only the vaguest recollection of the whole incident; they don't even know who handed them the notebook. (Presumably, it was left under Gergen's pillow by the tooth fairy.) Baker described to Barrett how he agonized over the "ethical dilemma" presented by the stolen material, but now says he didn't even try to find out who was responsible so he could make sure it didn't happen again. If you can swallow all that, take a friend along the next time you buy a used car.

Question: Did Mr. Reagan know he was using stolen material?

Hint: Baker, Stockman, and Gergen swear they never told their boss anything. Remember, however, that both camps viewed the debate as the most crucial event of the campaign. At that point, pollsters from both sides saw the race as a dead heat. If you can believe that Reagan was never told that what he was hearing in the rehearsal was the genuine stuff,

not just someone's best guess of what Carter might say, take two friends and a lawyer to help you with that car.

Question: Does the Ethics in Government Act require an FBI investigation of the theft and use of this material?

Hint: One lawyer who worked on the original legislation, and on last year's amendment says, "Yes."

Suggestion: One way to get answers to some of these questions might be to find the thief. Look for someone in a relatively low-level job who had frequent access to sensitive material and has shown an amazing ability to survive the changes of administration and in-house purges—perhaps someone with divided loyalties.

Final question: Is any of this really worth worrying about? If your answer is, "yes," you probably also think there's something wrong with a CIA director with access to classified economic data trading heavily in the stock market—which means you're out of step with current thinking here in Washington.

©1983, Dallas Times Herald

The writer, a syndicated columnist, was President Carter's press secretary.



By Ohlsson

Reagan staffers told Barrett it was a tremendous help; others play down its importance. The one thing that can be said with certainty is that those Americans who tuned in to see how candidate Reagan handled himself without a script got taken. He not only had his script, but Carter's too.

It is amazing that the Reagan people would engage in such skulduggery in the aftermath of Watergate, which some of them had observed at close hand. Equally mind-boggling has been the initial reaction of major news organizations: a collective shrug and yawn.

Barrett said he filed his "dirty trick" story with Time in February 1981, but it was "crowded out by other news." (Time's pages have presumably been filled with more important items for each of the 108 weeks since.) More senior people in Time's Washington bureau suggest Barrett's original story may not have been written "with enough conviction," but they have no explanation for the lack of follow-up.

Treatment by other news organizations has been almost as indifferent: four paragraphs on page B-10 of The New York Times and six paragraphs on page 16 of The Washington Post, both stories reflecting minimal interest.

It is impossible not to consider what would have hap-

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS


M.C.

The Honorable William Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

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